

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (new): A fastener applying assembly comprising:

an anvil member;

a cartridge assembly movably positioned in relation to the anvil member between open and approximated positions, the cartridge assembly including a staple cartridge having a plurality of staples; and

a staple ejecting assembly associated with the cartridge assembly, the staple ejecting assembly including at least one cam member, the at least one cam member being configured to translate from a position adjacent a distal end of the staple cartridge towards the proximal end of the staple cartridge to sequentially eject the plurality of staples from the staple cartridge.

Claim 31 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 30, wherein the staple ejecting assembly includes a knife blade adapted to translate with the at least one cam member to divide stapled tissue.

Claim 32 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 31, further including a shank positioned distally of the at least one cam member, the shank being adapted to translate with and behind the at least one cam member.

Claim 33 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the knife blade is mounted upon the shank.

Claim 34 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 33, wherein the at

least one cam member includes a plurality of cam members.

Claim 35 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 30, further including a draw bar extending through the cartridge assembly, the draw bar having a distal end operably associated with the at least one cam member and being proximally movable to effect translation of the at least one cam member.

Claim 36 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 30, wherein the staple cartridge includes at least one track, the at least one cam member translating along the at least one track.

Claim 37 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 36, wherein the at least one cam member includes a plurality of cam members and the at least one track includes a plurality of tracks.

Claim 38 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 30, wherein the cartridge assembly is pivotal in relation to the anvil member from the open position to the approximated position.

Claim 39 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 38, further including an approximation link, the approximation link being connected to the cartridge assembly by a pivot pin and to the anvil member by a cam pin.

Claim 40 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 39, wherein the approximation link is rotatably mounted about the pivot pin and includes a cam slot for receiving the cam pin, the approximation link being pivotable about the pivot pin to urge the cam pin through the cam slot to move the anvil member in relation to the cartridge assembly from the open position to the approximated position.

Appl. No. 10/668,941
Amdt. Dated October 23, 2003

Claim 41 (new): A fastener applying assembly according to Claim 40, wherein the approximation link includes a universal ball joint fitting adapted to be connected to an approximation cable.